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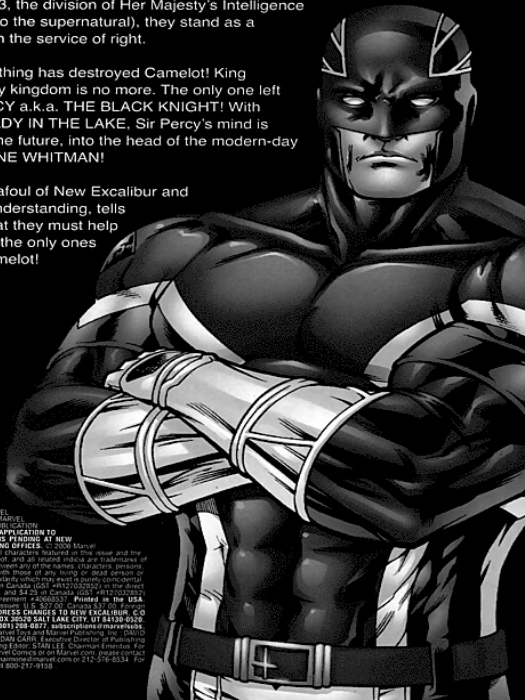
DIRECT EDITION

Previously in NEW EXCALIBUR:

In the aftermath of M-DAY, five disparate heroes are brought together in London: CAPTAIN BRITAIN, JUGGERNAUT, NOCTURNE, DAZZLER and SAGE. Together with government agent PETE WISDOM (an agent of MI-13, the division of Her Majesty's Intelligence Service devoted to the supernatural), they stand as a symbol of might in the service of right.

In the past, something has destroyed Camelot! King Arthur's legendary kingdom is no more. The only one left alive is SIR PERCY a.k.a. THE BLACK KNIGHT! With the help of the LADY IN THE LAKE, Sir Percy's mind is transported into the future, into the head of the modern-day Black Knight, DANE WHITMAN!

Sir Percy comes afoul of New Excalibur and after a brief misunderstanding, tells New Excalibur that they must help him. For they are the only ones that can save Camelot!



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The LAST DAYS of Camelot

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WE
LITERALLY
HAVE TO GO
JUMP IN THE
LAKE??

YOU DO
REALIZE WE'RE
VOLUNTARILY DOING
WHAT PEOPLE TELL
YOU TO DO WHEN
THEY WANT YOU TO
GO SOD OFF,
DON'T YOU?

THIS LAKE--AS HARD
AS IT IS TO BELIEVE--
IS THE LAKE.

AS IN
"LADY OF
THE..."

OH...NOW
WHY DIDN'T YOU
SAY THAT BEFORE?
EVERYTHING MAKES
PERFECT SENSE NOW.

BUT NOW LET ME ASK YOU THIS:
SINCE YOU'RE SUDDENLY SUCH THE
EXPERT IN TIME TRAVEL, MR. McFLY...

DOES JUST
ANYONE WHO
SWIMS IN THIS
LAKE SUDDENLY
END UP GOING ALL
SHERMAN AND
PEABODY? WHY ARE
WE SO BLOODY
SPECIAL?

NOW YOU'RE JUST
BEING A JERK. OBVIOUSLY
THE LADY IS OPENING A
MAGIC PORTAL THROUGH THE
LAKE ESPECIALLY FOR US.

OH, OBVIOUSLY, AND
WE'LL OBVIOUSLY WIND
UP IN SOMEONE ELSE'S
BODY LIKE PERCY
DID, RIGHT?

LIKE SOME PRINCE
WITH A HUGE CASTLE
AND AN EQUALLY HUGE
HAREM OR SOMETHING
SIMILAR. THAT WOULD BE
NICE, THEN OF COURSE.
IT COULD DO THE
OTHER WAY AND ONE
COULD END UP IN THE
BODY OF SOME
HIDEOUSLY DRUNKEN
LEPER...

sighs I EXPLAINED THIS
BEFORE. NOW DIDN'T I? THAT
ONLY HAPPENED BECAUSE IT'S
HARDER SENDING SOMEONE INTO THE
FUTURE THAN INTO THE PAST. WE'LL
BE IN OUR OWN BODIES, OKAY?



LOOK, I KNOW HOW THIS ALL SOUNDS, BUT I BELIEVE HIM. TRUST ME, I HAVE PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SORT OF THING.



YOU HAVE PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE WITH FRIENDS OF YOURS GOING DAFT AND BELIEVING THEY'RE POSSESSED BY PRINCE VALIANT REJECTS?



SIR, I DO BELIEVE I'VE PERMITTED YE TO HAVE ENOUGH FUN AT MINE EXPENSE.

I MAY NOT KNOW WHO THIS PRINCE VALIANT YE SPEAK OF IS, BUT I DO RECOGNIZE WHEN I'VE BEEN INSULTED.



PERHAPS IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR ALL OF EXCALIBUR TO MAKE THIS JOURNEY ENTIRELY IN ONE PIECE?

A LITTLE HELP? CRAZY PERSON WITH ENERGY-ABSORBING BLADE HERE...



KEEP YER CHAIN MAIL ON, BRAVEHEART.

YEAH, PETEY'S A MORON. BUT HE'S OUR MORON, YA KNOW?

UNHAND ME, VILE GIANT!



THANKS, CAIN. I THINK.

AW, COME ON, PETEY. WE USED TO DO THIS KIND OF STUFF ALL THE TIME WHEN I WAS WITH THE EXILES.

WHERE'S YOUR SENSE OF ADVENTURE?



NOT TO MENTION YOUR SENSE OF ROMANCE? ARTHUR, LANCELOT, MERLIN - TO ACTUALLY GET TO MEET THESE PEOPLE, FACE-TO-FACE?

I FOR ONE CAN'T WAIT TO GET THERE.

GET WHERE?
THESE ARE THE
RAVINGS OF A
LUNATIC,
PEOPLE!

Sigh: IT'S
TIMES LIKE
THIS I COULD
REALLY USE A
CIGARETTE.

AT ANY
RATE, I
THINK IT'S
TIME I
PLAYED
MY "TEAM
LEADER"
TRUMP
CARD AND
PULLED
RANK
HERE.

WE'RE
NOT
GOING.

HAHAHAHAHAHA!

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, PETER. YOU
CAN STAY HERE AND PLAY LEADER AND
THE REST OF US WILL SEND YOU A
POSTCARD FROM CAMELOT.

THERE'S GOTTA BE
ONE WITH MERLIN IN A
BIKINI SAYING "WISH YOU
WERE HERE!"

HELLO?
TEAM LEADER
HERE!

I SAID WE
WEREN'T GOING.
YOU ALL BETTER
BLOODY WELL GET
BACK HERE!



AT LEAST I
CAN COUNT ON
YOU NOT TO GET
SUCKED INTO ALL
THIS MADNESS,
SAGE.

FORTUNATELY, YOU'RE FAR
TOO INTELLIGENT A WOMAN
TO ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN,
UNLIKE THE REST OF--



YOU REALLY CAN
BE SUCH A BORE
SOMETIMES,
WISDOM.



YOU KNOW WHAT?
YOU CAN ALL GO
SOD OFF!

I'M NOT
JUMPING IN
AFTER YOU. THIS
IS A NEW SUIT,
FOR PETE'S
SAKE!



SAGE, LUV...
I DON'T LIKE
THAT LOOK, YOU
WOULDN'T...



HEY!







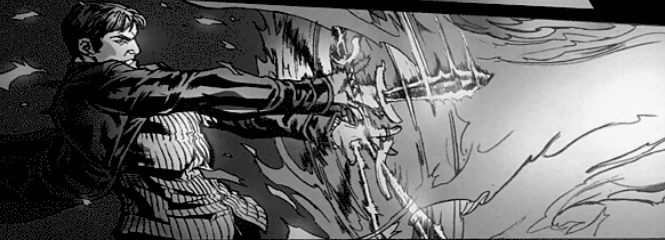


...THE
ASSASSINATION
OF MERLIN!

BEFORE
THEY ATTACKED
CAMELOT, THEY
MURDERED MERLIN.
PRESUMABLY
BECAUSE HE'D BE
THEIR BIGGEST
THREAT.



PERCY
HOLD UP!
WAIT FOR
THE OTHERS
BEFORE
YOU--







OKAY,
PEOPLE! I
WANT YOU
TO--



SAGE! GET MERLIN OUT
OF THERE, ALISON, YOU
RUN INTERFERENCE WITH
THAT DRAGON!

NOCTURNE!
I'LL TAKE DANE'S
DRAGON WHILE
YOU AND WISDOM
HANDLE--



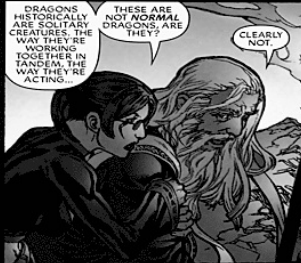
WISDOM!
WHAT ARE YOU
JUST STANDING
AROUND FOR? GO
HELP NOCTURNE
WITH THAT
DRAGON!



NEVER MIND.
A CIGARETTE.

IT'S TIMES
LIKE THESE I
NEED THE WHOLE
SODDIN'
CARTON.





DRAGONS HISTORICALLY ARE SOLITARY CREATURES. THE WAY THEY'RE WORKING TOGETHER IN TANDEM, THE WAY THEY'RE ACTING...

THESE ARE NOT NORMAL DRAGONS, ARE THEY?

CLEARLY NOT.



WOW. I'M REAL SORRY IF I'M GEEKING OUT HERE, BUT I'VE ALWAYS JUST LOVED THE STORIES ABOUT YOU AND THIS TIME PERIOD AND I JUST CAN'T GET OVER THAT I'M MEETING *THE*--

GET HIS AUTOGRAPH LATER, ALISON.



NOW, NOW, MADAME TESSA... LET THE GIRL HAVE HER FUN. SHE'S ALLOWED ME TO GAIN MY STRENGTH BACK, AFTER ALL.

I'M SORRY, BUT HAVE WE MET?

BEFORE THIS VERY MINUTE? NO.



THEN HOW DID YOU KNOW...

MADAME, PLEASE...

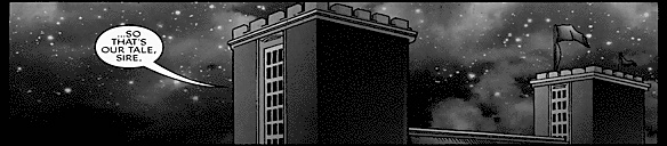


...I'M MERLIN.









SO
THAT'S
OUR TALE,
SIRE.

BY THIS TIME
TOMORROW, CAMELOT
WILL BE DESTROYED BY
AN ARMY OF DRAGONS
AND YE WILL ALL
BE KILLED.

WHAT DO YE
SUGGEST OUR NEXT
COURSE OF ACTION
TO BE?

WHY, A
FEAST, OF
COURSE!

M-MY
LORD?

OLD FRIEND,
WHAT WOULD
YE HAVE US
DO?

CAN WE
ATTEMPT
TO AMBUSH
OUR
WOULD-BE
ATTACKERS,
PERHAPS?
THEIR
LOCATION
REMAINS A
MYSTERY,
EVEN TO
MERLIN.

SO, AS I HAVE
ALREADY DISPATCHED
MY FINEST SCOUTS IN
HOPES OF UNCOVERING
THEIR LAIR, ALL WE
CAN DO IS WAIT...

CAMELOT IS
BLESSED WITH THE FINEST
DEFENSES AVAILABLE IN ANY
KINGDOM, IT IS NOT AS IF WE
CAN IMPROVE UPON THEM...
ESPECIALLY NOT BY TOMORROW.

...WELCOME OUR
NEW FRIENDS IN
PROPER
FASHION...

...AND
HOPE THEY
ARE TRULY THE
SAVIORS YE
CLAIM THEM
TO BE.

THAT NIGHT...

A MARVELOUS SONG, ALISON! WHAT DID YOU SAY IT WAS CALLED?

"TAINTED LOVE."

CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP!

CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!

"SIGH"

GEEZ, JUGGS...YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED YOUR FOOD, THERE'S A FULL BEER STILL IN FRONT OF YOU AFTER FIVE MINUTES AND YOU HAVEN'T SMASHED ANYTHING UP SINCE WE GOT HERE.

NOW, WHEN NOT EVEN THE "DAZZLING" MISS BLAIR'S SINGING CAN CHEER YOU UP, I KNOW SOMETHING AINT KOSHER.

WHAT'S UP?

AWWW, YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND, T.J.

TRY ME.

WELL, IT'S LIKE THIS... TIME WAS I COULDA SWATTED THEM GODZILLA REJECTS ALL AROUND LIKE DRAGONFLIES INSTEAD OF GETTIN' SWATTED MYSELF.

MY LOSS OF POWER'S STARTIN' TO GET TO ME.

AND EVEN WORSE, IT'S STARTIN' TO HURT THE TEAM.

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. YOU'RE STILL THE TOUGHEST GUY WE'VE GOT IN THIS GROUP.

EXCEPT FOR CAP, OF COURSE.

WHAT WAS THAT?

NOTHING!

WHAT'S THE
MATTER WITH
HIM?

Aw,
he's just
not feeling
like his old
self. That's
all.

BESIDES, IT'S BETTER THAN
HIM MOVING AROUND ABOUT
THE DIVINE MISS THANG ALL
THE TIME.

WHAT
WAS
THAT?

NOTHING.

ALI'S SURE
HAVING A
GRAND OL'
TIME, ISN'T
SHE?

WHO COULD BLAME
HER? IT'S NOT EVERY DAY
ONE GETS TO CAVORT
WITH ACTUAL HISTORICAL
LEGENDS LIKE ARTHUR,
LANCELOT AND
GUINEVERE.

WHICH REMINDS ME...

...YOU EVER
THINK ABOUT
TELLING YOUR
ROYAL HIGHNESS
THAT THOSE
TWO ARE GOING
TO GO ALL
DESPERATE
HOUSEWIVES
ON HIM?

CAN'T SAY THAT I HAVEN'T. BUT I'VE ALWAYS
TAKEN A KIND OF STAR TREKKY "DON'T SCREW
WITH THE LOCALS" KIND OF POLICY WHEN
DEALING WITH THIS STUFF.

DIDN'T
YOU GUYS
HAVE A
SIMILAR
POLICY WHEN
YOU WERE
WITH THE
EXILES?

NOT REALLY.
WE USED TO
SCREW WITH
THE LOCALS
ALL THE
TIME!

HAHA
HAA





MIND PASSING THE WINE, MATE? YOU'VE BEEN HOGGING IT ALL NIGHT.

WHAT? OH... UH, SURE.



I WAS SAYING IT WOULD BE GREAT TO JUST STAY HERE, AND THAT... AND I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ACTUALLY SAYING THIS... THAT I'M FINDING MY DISCONNECTION TO MY COMPUTER TO BE SOMEWHAT LIBERATING.



WELCOME BACK TO THE REAL WORLD, LUV.



MAYBE THAT'S IT... THAT THIS IS NOT THE REAL WORLD, IN A LAND OF DRAGONS, GIANTS, OGRES AND LORD KNOWS WHAT ELSE, WE MUTANTS AREN'T EVEN ON THE RADAR.

NO MUTANT HUNTING ROBOTS, NO M-DAY, NO ANTI-MUTANT BILLS...

AND NO INDOOR PLUMBING.



TRY A COLD CERAMIC POT AT THREE IN THE MORNING AND THEN TELL ME HOW "LIBERATED" YOU FEEL.

HAHAHA!



:Ahem:

MORE WINE?

OH PLEASE, WISDOM... YOUR PITIFUL ATTEMPTS TO GET ME DRUNK IN ORDER TO SEDUCE ME ARE AS TRANSPARENT AS YOUR JOKES ARE HIDEOUSLY UNFUNNY.



PITIFUL ATTEMPTS, EH?

WE'LL SEE IF YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT OVER BREAKFAST, LUV...

...AND I USED TO WEAR ROLLER SKATES. I DON'T THINK THEY'VE BEEN INVENTED YET, BUT BASICALLY THEY'RE SHOES WITH WHEELS. IF YOU CAN WRAP YOUR HEAD AROUND THAT.

IMAGINE TRYING TO FIGHT IN THOSE!

HAHA!

OH, ALISON. TRULY YE ARE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR IN THIS COURT.

WELL PLAYED, ARTHUR. AFTER ALL, THE YOUNG LADY'S STORY WAS NOT THAT AMUSING.

PARDON ME?

THIS FEAST, THIS BRAVE FACE YOU'RE PUTTING ON, YOU'VE DONE A REMARKABLE JOB OF KEEPING EVERYONE CALM WHILE STILL MANAGING TO MASK YOUR OWN CONCERN OVER WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TOMORROW.

HMMMPH.

YE KNOW ME TOO WELL, OLD FRIEND.

IT DOESN'T MATTER. NO ONE ELSE HAS.

WHAT IS IT?

I SENSE...

...ONE OF THE SCOUTS...

...HAS FOUND THE LAIR OF THE DRAGONS.

THEN THERE IS A CAUSE FOR A CELEBRATION AFTER ALL!

"NO,
ARTHUR..."



"...THERE IS
NOT."



TO BE
CONTINUED...



TEAM DCP

KURT_WAGNER AND KRYPTONIA
(*edits*) (scan)